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defects in American city administration and emphatic in its condemnation of them, yet it is optimistic in tone. Finally, one cannot withhold admiration for the author's clearness of expression, for the straightforward simplicity of his style.

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Agricultural Commerce: The Organization of American Commerce in Agricultural Commodities. By GROVER G. HUEBNER. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1915. 8vo, pp. xiv+406. \$2.00.

Probably the word "commerce" has not come to have, in the vernacular of economics, a meaning so precise as to give one adequate grounds for quarreling with any writer's definition of the term. Yet it comes as something of a surprise to find Dr. Huebner speaking of it as a synonym for "marketing" or for "commercial phases of agriculture," and giving to "transportation or shipping organization" so small a place in his account of the matter. He defines commerce in the words of E. R. Johnson, as "consisting of the exchange of commodities between separate localities—it is the agency by means of which consumer and producer are brought together. The process involves the sale and purchase of goods, their transmission from the seller to the buyer, and the settlement of business accounts." He adds that the term should "be interpreted broadly so as to exclude all those phases of agriculture which have to do with the production or growth of farm products, and to include all those which have to do with their distribution from grower to consumer." There are, he says, twelve subdivisions of this study:

1. The geographical location of producing districts volume and value of crops, and proportion reaching the markets.
2. Location and classification of different types of agricultural markets.
3. The trade organization or methods of purchase and sale.
4. Transportation or shipping organization.
5. Inspection, classification, and grading of farm products.
6. Control or regulation of commercial distribution by public authorities and organized exchanges, or other commercial bodies.
7. The relation between speculation and the trade in farm commodities.
8. The collection and dissemination of trade information.
9. Local wholesale and retail prices, price factors or influences, and methods of determining and quoting prices.

10. The cost incurred in the commercial distribution of crops.
11. The relationship between insurance and the commerce in farm commodities.
12. The financing of the agricultural crops.

This analysis of the problem is, however, to only a limited extent made the pattern of treatment in the book as a whole, since the author feels that, except in the case of a few of the topics, such as crop reports, insurance, and the financing of crops, "there is such wide divergence in practice that the detailed study of commerce in selected commodities becomes essential." Accordingly he devotes two chapters each to grain, cotton, and livestock, and one each to wool, tobacco, and fruit. A chapter on speculation is sandwiched between those on cotton and live stock, and one on foreign trade (18 pages) follows the chapter on finance at the close of the volume.

Excellent though the book is, it fails to do some things which might, not unreasonably, be expected of it; and at the same time it attempts some tasks which were by no means incumbent on its author. Whatever the merits of the definition of commerce with which the author starts out, or of the interpretation which he gives to it, the title *Agricultural Commerce* raised, at least in the mind of the reviewer, the hope for a book of somewhat different scope and emphasis than those of the present volume. It would seem that it might well contain a more specific account of the actual lines which the commerce in various farm products follows, together with the reasons which explain this organization of the trade, and less discussion of the forces influencing prices or the institutions by which the farmer is to be financed. Storage in transit, car peddling, car "tramping" and diversion methods, pick-up cars, concentration rates, refrigerator and heater-car services and charges, and the character of terminal facilities are all matters which touch the marketing of farm products vitally. Even though some of them have been treated elsewhere, as the author intimates, these points and others of a like nature have never been brought together for systematic and adequate treatment in their relation to the trade in farm products. On the other hand, to go as far afield as $MV + M'V'$ in a book of this title seems a work of supererogation for an author so pressed for space. Nor do such topics as mortgage credit and the sheep-raiser's costs of production appear to have as good a claim to attention as would many of the things left out.

Notable in the list of omissions are poultry and dairy products and vegetables. In view of the importance of these items in present-day

discussions of our city marketing arrangements, they can hardly be put aside so cavalierly as is done on p. 4. Likewise, sugar and rice are ignored, and the compressing of the discussion of fruit marketing into seventeen and one-half pages causes practically all the significant details to be merged into a few meaningless generalities.

The chapters which include the detailed description of the methods of handling the staple crops are undoubtedly the best part of the book, being carefully compiled and illustrated by many interesting documents and forms. There are bibliographies following the various chapters, and the Cotton Futures act is printed as an appendix.

Had the book been developed symmetrically upon the general plan of the twelve headings mentioned in the first chapter (restricted in certain directions) for all the important lines of agricultural products of the United States, the result would have been a reference book on agricultural commerce invaluable both for courses in commerce and for those in agricultural economics. Apparently the author has felt constrained to give his work the form of a textbook, to publish it before the larger task could be accomplished, and to attempt to cover certain problems of price which today command public interest. To intimate that there was a larger ideal to which he might have addressed himself is by no means to deny the great practical usefulness of the book as it stands, in the field for which it is designed. Likewise, Dr. Huebner deserves the special credit accorded to those who blaze new trails.

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Infant Mortality. By HUGH T. ASHBY. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (New York: Putnam), 1915. 8vo, pp. x+230. \$3.25.

The first chapter of this book consists of a general introduction to the subject. Chapter ii deals with the distribution of infant mortality in England and Wales (no comparison being made with other countries), chaps. iii to ix with the causes of infant mortality, and the remainder of the book with the "ways in which infant mortality can be lowered." The purpose of the book "is to try throughout the country to awaken more interest in the prevention of infant mortality" (p. vi).

In the author's judgment "the first and greatest predisposing factor in infant mortality . . . its root cause," is poverty. "Poverty leads